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INCORPORATING NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND





Neighbourhood Watch
Australasia Incorporated

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Neighbourhood Watch programs have a significant role to play, as the nation's Terrorism Alert sits at high

Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

30 years ago Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) programs were introduced into Australian society.

The original promotion of the program saw the first “formal” participation of the community at large playing a role in crime prevention. In essence it was an acknowledgement on several fronts, community members acknowledging police officers, whilst enforcers of the law, were also people who lived amongst the community. But most importantly, was the perceived acknowledgement by law enforcement agencies, that community members had a responsibility and valuable contribution to make in keeping themselves and their neighbours safe, whilst working alongside police.

Much has been written by scholars on the effectiveness of NHW programs within communities, whether a “believer” or “non believer” in the program, none appear to have questioned one of the programs’ most traditional core roles, being the

“eyes and ears of the community”, the essential “capable guardian” of the crime prevention triangle.

Many a joke has been made about the “curtain twitchers” or “busybodies” of NHW members, however the fact remains, that active NHW members are the individuals within the neighbourhood, who care enough to be vigilant of their surrounds. At a time when it is now no longer odd to come across the terminology “absent communities” depicting streets and neighbourhoods void of occupants during the day, a capable guardian has become a desired aspect.

The busyness of life in today's society, the expanse of social media, the “smallness” of the world, the diverseness of the traditional family structure, has led to the changing face of the traditional ideological Aussie community. For some, gone is the need to engage in face-to-face

interaction with those who live around them. Gone is the need to be aware or care of what is happening within the neighbourhood.

I raise these points as they are things we seriously need to consider as the Government asks us to “find out what you can do to help keep Australia safe from terrorism and to prepare for, and respond to, an emergency”. The National Terrorism Public Alert System states Australia is at high alert. That means a terrorist attack is likely. Frightening fact.

Whilst I am not suggesting for a moment that a Neighbourhood Watch program is the answer to every concern, I am strongly suggesting it is a start to connecting people in communities. It is a start to building community capacity and resilience by working together to face a shared issue, community safety. A Neighbourhood Watch

“Many a joke has been made about the “curtain twitchers” or “busybodies” of NHW members, however the fact remains, that active NHW members are the individuals within the neighbourhood, who care enough to be vigilant of their surrounds.”

Program offers neighbours a reason to become involved, a reason to be connected and a reason to care. It also offers an opportunity to build a relationship of trust and confidence with police.

Our own studies show us that the majority of our NHW members are aged 45 plus. By this age our members appear established, have gained an understanding of the importance of civic responsibility, and are willing to make their community environment a safe place for their families and neighbours. They are settled and have a long-term investment in their neighbourhood and community and are willing to make an effort. They are able to prioritise their time to “notice” their surrounds.

Our research also indicated that active NHW programs better facilitated the welcoming and meeting of new people into the community and had improved police-community relationships. The police-community relationship is key to the success of a local NHW program. Scholars have suggested that the community’s willingness to cooperate with police in face-to-face encounters and their willingness to collaborate

with police in crime prevention efforts is largely linked to people’s belief that the police are legitimate authorities. Where authorities are judged to be legitimate, people will be more likely to trust and have confidence in that authority and will feel a sense of moral obligation to cooperate with them, defer to their decisions and rules and to follow them voluntarily¹. Our research shows that active NHW members were more likely to view police as legitimate than those with no involvement in NHW.

At a time when our community members are being asked not only to consider their own safety but to consider the safety of our country as a whole, it makes sense to question how we can most effectively achieve that. It is a time when we are also being asked to work more closely with police for the good of the nation. It is a time when we need to remain vigilant and have confidence to report information to police. It makes sense that NHW, Australia’s largest community safety, crime prevention activity of its kind, should be supported and utilised to its full strength.

The comprehensive NHW research project² contained many questions

designed to assess the complex issues of neighbourhood safety and cohesion. It looked closely at how the relationship within the community worked and how the communities’ relationship with police worked. Importantly the results showed us that NHW members indicated they were more willing to cooperate with police. In communities where NHW groups operated our survey indicated that members were less likely to see their neighbourhood having high levels of crime if their neighbourhood was socially cohesive or if they could rely on their neighbours. Perceptions of one’s neighbourhood also influenced people’s willingness to cooperate with police.

The conclusion is that NHW programs play a significant role in strengthening community-police engagement and empowering communities; and promoting greater social inclusion among communities leading to enhanced well-being and overall quality of life.

The importance of this program, its brand and its members should not be overlooked.

1 Tyler (2006)

2 NHW Survey, Griffith University Qld, Research Project



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Board Member Introductions



Pat Leary - President

Patricia Leary is currently the State Secretary/Vice President Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania Inc. Pat has professed to recently retiring, and indeed has stepped down from being the Deputy President Fair Work Commission (and its predecessors) for some 28 years; a Member/President Tasmanian Industrial Commission some 12 years; a Member/President Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal over a 20 year period.

However Pat still serves as the Chair of the Northern Territory Police Arbitral Tribunal (since 2002); Chair of the Tasmanian Police Review Board and Member (since 2004); Chair Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (since 2006); Chair Red Cross Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal Fund Distribution Committee; and Chair of the Centenary of ANZAC Steering Committee (Tasmania).



Bernie Durkin - Vice President

Bernie is the Executive Manager for the Community Engagement Division of the Western Australia Police. Part of this role encompasses the position of WA State Director for NHW. In 1988 Bernie joined WA Police as a sworn Police Officer then switching to a Public Servant in 2008. In his current role Bernie manages a team of crime prevention community engagement staff and is extensively involved with NHW at both a State and National level. Bernie is currently the Vice President of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Margaret Pearson - Secretary

Throughout Margaret's career she has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector by being involved with numerous community organizations including ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association Inc. where she held a number of positions within that organisation including President.

Having lived overseas for a number of years Margaret returned, with her family, to Canberra where she continues to follow her great interest in local and international politics. Margaret is currently the secretary/treasurer of NHWA.



Ingrid Stonhill - Chief Executive Officer

Ingrid has extensive experience in local government, federal government and non government agencies. For the last 15 years Ingrid has been predominantly focused on community development, crime prevention and community engagement - within the voluntary, policing and government sectors.

Ingrid has been an elected local body politician, an advisor to a senior Member of Parliament, run her own Public Relations and Marketing business and spent two years as a volunteer in the Pacific Islands. Ingrid brings to NHWA an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the organisation as a founding member and administrator of the board. Ingrid was the inaugural National Manager of Neighbourhood Support New Zealand prior to immigrating to Australia.



Michelle Shipp - Project Administrator

Michelle has worked in a variety of senior positions providing secretarial support to directors, staff and students within education providers for over ten years. She has also worked within the Government sector including the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Safety and Health and the Department of Transport, Executive Services as an Executive Assistant.

Michelle's passion for overseas travel and connecting with different cultures, inspired her to complete a three month Internship with LoveTEFL, volunteering as an English teacher in Cambodia last year. Michelle completed a Business Practices Course, Computer Skills at Lorraine Martin Commercial College, and an Associate Diploma of Arts at Mt Gravatt TAFE.

Michelle sees joining NHWA as an opportunity to utilise her highly developed people and administration skills whilst building on her volunteering experiences after being deployed to Bundaberg to assist with the 2012 flood recovery.



Clare McGrath - Board Member

Clare is currently the Vice-President and Board Member of the ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association. Clare has been an active member of NHW since 1985, primarily in the Ainslie Suburb of Canberra where she has lived since 1962 after moving from Melbourne.

Clare is employed with the Australian Electoral Commission and this is a busy role. Clare is a self-professed sports lover and a one eyed Hawthorn supporter.



Brooke Jones - Board Member

Brooke Jones is the Team Leader for the Prevention (Cyber and Child Safety) Team in the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Her team is responsible for the development and implementation of cyber safety education and awareness programs, including ThinkUKnow. Brooke has held roles in ACT Policing and the AFP for nearly five years. Prior to working in law enforcement, Brooke worked in a range of private and government roles specialising in Project Management and Marketing Communication. Brooke holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing Communication.



Troy Stephens - Board Member

Troy Stephens is a Senior Sergeant in the Northern Territory Police Force, Crime Prevention Section where he is responsible for Neighbourhood Watch NT Police Staff. Troy moved to the Northern Territory in 1997 and is married with a young family. Troy joined the NT Police Force in 2001 and since then has completed several years of remote policing and also worked as a Detective in Major crime and other investigative areas before being promoted to his current role.



Brad Shepherd - Board Member

Chief Superintendent Brad Shepherd joined NSW Police Force in 1980. He currently serves as the Commander of Operational Programs and is the Corporate Sponsor for Crime Prevention and Chair of the Australia New Zealand Police Advisory Agency Crime Prevention Senior Officers Group. A 33 year career in law enforcement has spanned several roles including General Duties, Radio Technical, Covert Technical Surveillance, Staff Officer, Counter Terrorism, Operational Communications and Local Area Commander. Brad holds a Bachelor of Business (BBus) and a Master of Business Management (MBA).



Geoff Kloot - Board Member

Geoff Kloot has been extensively involved in NHW groups in Victoria since 1985. He has held many positions ranging from Zone Manager, Area Manager, Deputy Chairman and Division Chairman. Geoff is also a member of the NHW Victoria board.

In 2007 Geoff received an Australia Day Award and NHW Victoria State Award of Honour for his services to the community. In 2010 Geoff was awarded the Sgt John Cain Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to NHW. Geoff also received the NHW Australasia Malcolm Grant Volunteer Member of the Year Award in 2013.

Geoff was also the leader of the project team that developed the Diagrammatic Brochure on Domestic Violence for NHW Australasia and which has been widely distributed throughout Australia.

In his working life, Geoff was a senior manager with a State Government agency and then a management consultant. Geoff is married with two adult children and four young grandsons. As a pastime, he enjoys photography.



Paul Stewart - Board Member

Assistant Commissioner Paul Stewart commenced his career in the Queensland Police Service in 1982. During his time with Queensland Police Service, Mr Stewart has held a number of positions ranging from the Forensic Services Branch, Acting Director of the Media and Public Relations Branch, Chief Superintendent, Project Manager of the QPRIME Project for the QPS, to Assistant Commissioner of Information and Communications Technology.

In June 2013, Paul commenced a new role as the Assistant Commissioner, Community Contact Command. This new role includes the Media and Public Affairs Group, Police Communication Centres throughout the State, the Policelink call centre and other community based areas such as the Queensland Police Citizen Youth Clubs, Crime Prevention, the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums and Crime Stoppers.

NHWA AGM

Annual General Meeting

will be held at the

Kermantie Hotel and Marina
4518 Main Road Port Huon, Tasmania 7116

On Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 12 noon.

All members welcome.

For further information about the AGM contact NHWA at
(email) admin@nhwa.com.au or check out the website www.nhwa.com.au

Nominations open: Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards 2015



Each year, NHWA like to recognise and celebrate the hardworking individuals who make up Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support (NZ). These individuals are a highly valued asset for our communities and police. These individuals are a highly valued asset for our communities and police. We want to share and promote the good work of all our members across New Zealand and Australia.

We would like to encourage you to take the time to recognise an important, community-minded individual who has qualities you would like to acknowledge and you think we should know about. These qualities should relate to the work and enthusiasm they have demonstrated in making your neighbourhood a safer, more vibrant place to live. Nominations for the Malcolm Grant OAM – NHWA Volunteer of the Year Award is in recognition of a volunteer community member. Nominations for the NHWA Police Commissioner's Award is in recognition of a police employee.

There will also be the Commonwealth Minister of Justice – NHWA Innovation Award. This award is given in recognition of an innovative community project, promoting community safety and NHW values. This award is selected through the NHWA Community Funding Program.

Nominations for the NHWA Awards opened on Friday 5th June 2015 and close on Friday 28th August 2015. Nomination forms are now available from our website.

Nominations can be completed online or can be sent in confidence to the NHWA National Office, Maroochydore BC, PO Box 5513 QLD 4558.

For further information check out the website: www.nhwa.com.au, or email admin@nhwa.com.au.





Left to right: Bernie Durkin WA Police, Ingrid Stonhill NHWA, Mr Nathan Morton MLA (Member for Forrestfield), Brad Sheppard NSWPF, Troy Stephens NT Police, Lyn Russell City of Canning.



Left to right: Emma Whalan (AFP), Brooke Jones (AFP) and Board Member and Margaret Pearson, Secretary.



Emma Whalan (AFP) speaking at the information day.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Western Australia training day

The City of Canning hosted the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia training day at the City Administration Building on 25th June.

The training day was opened by Mr Nathan Morton MLA (Member for Forrestfield) on behalf of Liza Harvey, the Minister for Police and attended by 60 Neighbourhood Watch participants and local government staff from across Western Australia.

A range of topics were presented including how to report to WA Police and Crime Stoppers, the value of the eWatch program, cyber safety, online scams and writing successful grant applications.

"The day provided some valuable information to the community and builds on some of the excellent work we have been doing with Neighbourhood Watch over the last several years," CEO Lyn Russell said.

"Through Neighbourhood Watch, the City strives to create welcoming, friendly, inclusive, safe and secure communities for everyone. The program helps build more resilient, sustainable communities," Ms Russell concluded.

"The partnership NHPWA holds with its jurisdiction members is very important", said CEO Ingrid Stonhill, "It enables us to fund and deliver essential training to our invaluable and essential volunteers".

The day was attended by the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Board and President the Honourable Pat Leary, Neighbourhood Watch State Board, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia CEO Ingrid Stonhill and Neighbourhood Watch WA State Coordinator Jenny O'Brien.

Sergeant Daryl Neit retires

ACT Neighborhood Watch is losing a great friend. Sergeant Daryl Neit, winner of the ACT Chief Police Officers Award in 2013, is retiring after over 35 years in the Police Force.

Daryl will be greatly missed as he consistently supported the group's activities and spoke with ease on crime prevention issues. His actions reinforced the strong relationship which exists between ACT Policing and ACT Neighborhood Watch.

ACT Neighborhood Watch recently joined with ACT Policing for Project Safe Plate for North Canberra.

This event enables motorists to have their car number plates secured with special screws so as not to become a victim of number plate theft, which unfortunately is on the increase. Over 365 vehicles were fitted with the special screws.

This event will be repeated in South Canberra later in the year.



Left to right: Dinah Morrison, Sep Westerhuis and Clare McGrath.



Sergeant Daryl Neit.



NHW NEW
SOUTH WALES

100 years of women in policing celebrated at Tweed Heads

Tweed Valley NHW Inc

Twweed Byron Local Area Command joined forces with Tweed Valley Neighbourhood Watch and other agencies in celebrating "100 Years of Women in Policing in NSW". The day was fine with the sun breaking through light cloud and not too hot for the participating police ladies running in the baton race, from Point Danger to the PCYC in Recreation Street just along from the Tweed Heads Police Station.

The day was well patronised with police, volunteers, and the public; as it happened it was school sports day with a multitude of young children participating in their chosen sport. The Neighbourhood Watch marquee was a favourite with the kids and the parents. Amazingly children still love balloons; we gave away heaps, all with the NHW and police logos.

We also distributed NHWA brochures to the adults on subjects such as *Behind Closed Doors*

(Domestic Violence), *Protect Your Home*, and *Protect Your Vehicle*. All very valuable information.

You can't work on an empty stomach so the volunteer rescue squad came to the rescue with a very tasty sausage sizzle. The sausages were so good that by the end of this very special day they were all gone.

There were a couple of short speeches, one by Acting Superintendent Cowen who, as part of his speech, welcomed along Elders from the local Tweed Aboriginal family.

Tweed Police carried out a great job in organising the day, and Tweed Valley Neighbourhood Watch was pleased to be invited to play their part; it gave us great exposure which is so valuable to the organisation and keeping Neighbourhood Watch top of mind in the community. We look forward to working alongside our local police at the top of the state in northern NSW once again in the near future.



Whakatāne Neighbourhood Support in the Spotlight

Julie Collins, Area Manager (West), Whakatāne Neighbourhood Support

Whakatāne nestles in the heart of the Bay of Plenty. The township has a District Council which administers a land area of 4,442 km² within the north-eastern part of the North Island, supporting both urban populations and a large agricultural community. The District's vision is to have a community which is safe and surrounded by people who are friendly and caring. The area does have its share of natural disasters, bio security threats, emergencies and criminal activity.

In October 1999, the Whakatāne District Neighbourhood Support Trust became incorporated. The Trust is fortunate to be run by a strong and efficient committee.

Neighbourhood Support

On top of the usual canvassing to gain new NS groups, helping existing ones to flourish and providing support to those who are struggling, Whakatāne Neighbourhood Support has been running a series of public safety meetings with its partner agencies to increase the awareness of events which could easily become life-threatening or devastating to communities. The aim of the meetings is to strengthen the ability of communities to mitigate the effects of an emergency event. Public safety meetings were held in Te Teko and Edgecumbe on the evenings 12th and 19th March, 2015. More events will be staged with other communities across the Rangitāiki Plains. Guest speakers were drawn from the local Police, Civil Defence, Fire Safety and Neighbourhood Support.

Fire Safety

Whakatāne Neighbourhood Support identified that there are local houses that do not have smoke detectors. Jon Rewi, Fire Risk Management

Officer/Specialist Fire Investigator, spoke in Edgecumbe and emphasised the need for all houses to be fitted with working smoke detectors. He stated that they had to be tested regularly as they cannot save lives when they are unserviceable or without a functioning power source. He talked on the hazards of removing internal keys from deadlocks in escape route doors. The last thing anyone wants to do when faced with a fire hazard is try to locate a key to free themselves from a smoky room. The audience was interested in who had responsibility for working smoke detectors in rental properties. They were advised that tenants are responsible for taking measures to protect their own lives and that of their families. However, it was suggested that landlords document in the tenancy agreements, which is signed by both parties, the responsibility for the tenants to maintain working smoke detectors.

Civil Defence

Meagan Edhouse, Emergency Management Advisor for Civil Defence, spoke on natural hazards. The Edgecumbe Earthquake struck on 2nd March, 1987 and measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. Although no lives were lost, this was one of the most damaging quakes experienced in the



Jon Rewi, Fire Risk Management Officer/Specialist Fire Investigator, and Meagan Edhouse, Emergency Management Advisor for Civil Defence, at the public safety meeting held at the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall on 19th March 2015.



North Island. A foreshock just minutes before had cut the power supply and many people had wisely moved away from heavy machinery and out of their homes. A crack 7 kilometres long opened in the Rangitāiki Plains and at one point the land close to the fault dropped two metres. In addition, Eastern Bay of Plenty has had its fair share of flooding and landslides over the last 12 years.

Neighbourhood Support works alongside Civil Defence to encourage people to be prepared for when a natural disaster occurs.

Neighbourhood Support and Civil Defence are working together to identify the strengths, resources, skills and vulnerabilities within

neighbourhood groups. Neighbourhood Support would provide verifiable status reports on communities with Neighbourhood Support groups so that emergency services could be directed to the most life-threatening situations. Neighbourhood Support Area Managers (Coordinators) have a welfare role in times of emergency response.

Police

Local police addressed the audiences at the local safety meetings and stressed the need to report anything suspicious. An overview was provided on what people could do to improve their personal safety and reduce their chances of becoming victims of crime.

The message was that no one need be afraid of dialling 111 to report suspicious activity or a crime.

Area Managers are linking Neighbourhood Support groups to become more effective for crime prevention purposes. A good example of linked groups working well together is within the western flanks of the Whakatāne District. The Manawahe Road stretches over 25km through hilly terrain. It has 10 rural groups stretched along the length of this road and when a suspicious vehicle is sighted one group can contact other groups several kilometres away and prepare them for recording further details like registration and passenger numbers.

Mark Your Territory Day a hit in the NT



Marking property for police identification has been revitalised in the Northern Territory and Neighbourhood Watch NT is rapt with it.

Earlier this year, UV marker kits arrived in the Territory and they've been the hot new crime prevention tool for Territorians.

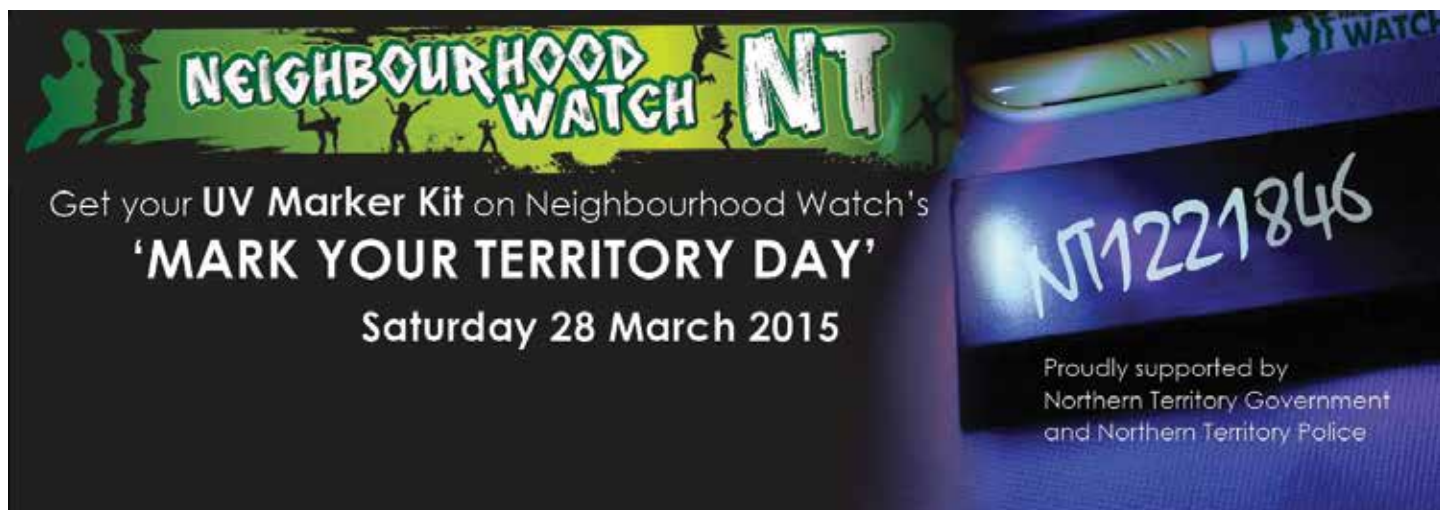
In conjunction with Neighbour Day in late March, a 'Mark Your Territory Day' was launched where volunteers in Darwin, Alice Springs and regional centres across the NT gave residents free UV kits, consisting of a UV marker, torch and instructions.

The NHWNT Board, local police and volunteers knew they had a good product – and it wasn't long before the community knew it too.

Thousands flocked to the stalls to collect their kit, often showing up at the promoted venue before the advertised time and surprising NHW volunteers, like Kate Worden.

"I couldn't believe it! We advertised that we would be at the Casuarina Shopping Centre from 11am to 2pm. We had people lining up at 10.30am and were out of kits before we even started.

"It was great to see so many people committed to crime prevention and also taking personal responsibility to mark their property. Each of the volunteers



were provided with training and some talking points on how to promote the product, but most of the time people were coming up to us and telling us how to use it, adding that they knew it could mark property in up to 5-10 households and to pass it along when they were finished. It doesn't get much better than that!"

Members of the Northern Territory Police Force were keen to support this initiative with Senior Sergeant Mark Stringer from Strike Force Trident, the Top End's Property Crime Unit, putting his face and voice to a Territory-wide TV Community Service Announcement.

"I need to stress that the best tool for crime prevention is to lock up your property, but these UV markers are a great new tool".

"Territorians simply write their driver's licence number on their valuables –

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like phones, laptops, iPads and tools – if we recover them, we check them with the UV torches that Neighbourhood Watch NT have provided us with, and we can get in touch. It saves time and frustration for everyone,” he said.

Right across the Territory, members of the public are accessing their local police stations to get their kit and mark their property.

NT Police Senior Constable Tracy-Dale Middleton, the Neighbourhood Watch NT Support and Liaison Officer, said the UV initiative has been a hit in the NT but there’s still plenty more work to be done.

“Mark Your Territory Day was a huge success for Neighbourhood Watch NT. We have a great product to market and Territorians want tools to help them minimise opportunistic crime.

“We are engaging with local Councils for their support in this initiative and are out and about at as many Territory events as possible, including the July show circuit, community markets, festivals and family fun



days to ensure the kits are spread far and wide.

“Police do a brilliant job and if this tool can assist them and minimise the time taken to identify an owner of stolen or lost property, then

they can spend more time serving their community on the frontline,” she said.

Neighbourhood Watch NT aims to distribute 25,000 kits in 2015 and is rapidly closing in on this target.

SARCIS embraces the new by keeping it personal

The Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad (SARCIS), in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch, Policelink and Police Media, continues to push the boundaries to effectively engage with rural communities, promote crime prevention strategies and overcome the under-reporting of stock and rural crime.



Trevor the Tractor sports police and SARCIS decals, thanks to the creative efforts of the Fleet Assets team at Alderley Depot.

Recent research undertaken by the University of New England in partnership with SARCIS confirmed trespassing and illegal hunting on rural properties as the most serious concern of farmers and graziers across the state.

Rural residents believe trespassing is the catalyst to other crimes such as fuel, firearm and infrastructure theft, however there remains an issue with under-reporting of such rural crime. This under-reporting hampers effective and efficient case and place management of crime in rural areas.

Detective Inspector Mick Dowie, State Coordinator for SARCIS, said the squad was employing a number of different strategies to encourage rural residents to communicate more with police.

"Rural people are engaging with social media and they are using smart phone apps and computers to stay in touch," Detective Inspector Dowie said.

"By personally connecting with rural residents at popular events such as Beef Week recently in Rockhampton,

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The combined SARCIS, Neighbourhood Watch and the District Crime Prevention Coordinators police site saw a constant stream of visitors during Beef Week at Rockhampton in May.



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we are encouraging more of them to communicate with us via electronic means.

"The SARCIS blog is proving to be very popular, receiving more than 2,000 views during Beef Week, and there were 476 new downloads of the Policelink app incorporating the recently released Stock and Rural Crime widget, with 991 active users during this time period.

Neighbourhood Watch Queensland were also winners in this regard, distributing hundreds of flyers and signing up approximately 100 new members to their own blog during Beef Week.

'Trevor the Tractor', sporting police and SARCIS decals thanks to the



creative efforts of the Fleet Assets team at Alderley Depot, made his debut at Beef Week and helped draw in visitors to the police stand.

"The combining of SARCIS, Neighbourhood Watch and the District Crime Prevention Coordinators all on the one site at Beef Week proved to be a great success, and having the Mounted Unit patrolling the event further promoted our commitment to the pastoral and agricultural industries," Detective Inspector Dowie said.

"There was a constant flow of people through the site proving we still need that presence and personal engagement at events like Beef Week that provide a great opportunity to promote our combined messages."



Holistic Community Safety

Driving safe communities through engagement and technology

29th September - 1st October 2015 | Radisson Blu, Sydney

There has recently been an increase in community crime in areas such as theft, violent crime and assaults. This has highlighted the growing importance of local government's responsibility to strengthen community safety.

This conference will address the role of local council optimising safety within their communities by effectively managing resources and budgets.

By attending this conference you will gain:

- Strategies to prevent crime through community collaboration
- How to enhance compliance around the privacy aspect of surveillance for sustainable CCTV systems
- Methods to effectively tackle domestic and alcohol fuelled
- Methods to address the increasing use of drugs

You will have the exclusive opportunity to hear from:



Ingrid Stonhill
Chief Executive Officer,
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia



Cr Des Hudson
South Ward Councillor, People and Communities Portfolio,
City of Ballarat



Sam Hunter
Chief Executive Officer, **Crime Stoppers Victoria**



Suzie Matthews
Director, Customer & Engagement, **NSW Trade and Investment Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing**

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Positive signs for Neighbourhood Watch

In recent times NHW Tasmania has approved and appointed a new Board of Management and implemented a redrafted Constitution which reflects a simpler and less formal approach to our operations. The President and Secretary have done a 'road trip' around the State, speaking to each District about the new Constitution and the new Board.

Whilst both the Southern and Northern Districts decided not to nominate a District Board member at this stage, a new Board, with a member from the Western District, has been appointed and the Board is busy looking at future plans for a re-invigorated NHW Tasmania.

It has been very positive to share the new simplified model with our District members and as a result we have three new Watches pending in the Southern District and one rejuvenated Watch in the Western District. We hope to see this trend continue state-wide.

Positive changes too with the engagement of a new Board of Management. The familiar faces of Jan Dunsby, Pat Leary and Wayne Burgess will continue, with new members joining the Board:

Peter Middleton, Community Development Co-ordinator with the Tasmanian Fire Service. We welcome his skills in community engagement and the sharing of networks between the two organisations.

George Bird, the friendly face of our former Community Policing Officer for Eastern District.

We are excited that, in his retirement, George is ready, willing and able to now apply his skills and knowledge to Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania.

Lyn Tate, who works as a Project Co-ordinator with Medicare Local Tasmania and brings a range of skills that we believe will complement the aims and objectives of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania.

And **Ant Dry**, a well known and very active and committed Western District member.

The Board is busy looking at opportunities for sponsorship and collaborations with like-minded organisations.

In partnership with Tasmania Police NHWT hosted a Business Crime Prevention Forum in Launceston in July.

Some significant changes and some positive outcomes; we look forward to an enhanced involvement with the community and our police partnership.

NHW in Victoria

Geoff Klood



NHW Victoria State President Michael Strong addressing the NHW Victoria State Forum in Shepparton.

NHW Victoria State Forum - Shepparton

Following the success of last year's regional forum, NHW Victoria headed to the city of Shepparton for this year's event. On a cold, wet winter night about 50 NHW members and a large contingent police from all parts of the state attended.

The night was about sharing ideas, introducing the new president and providing a program update.

The evening started with Acting Inspector Mark Byers giving a perspective on crime prevention activities in Shepparton and some of the challenges police and the community face now and into the future. Shepparton Police place great value on NHW and have been very supportive over many years.

There was a presentation on the *Safety and Security for Senior Citizens Program* which has been running in

Manningham (eastern Melbourne suburb). The topics covered in the program include the *Real Crime Situation in our Community, Home and Vehicle Security*, and *Preventing and Reporting Crime*. Time is also spent giving the seniors information on *Getting Out and About Safely*, and *Safety in the Home*. The program has been delivered to 16 seniors groups so far with audiences ranging from 10 to 240 and totalling over 900 people.

This presentation was followed by CEO Gill Metz providing a state-wide program update and introducing the new programs and projects database available for groups to use. Joe Clarke from Mildura NHW also spoke about the start of their Junior NHW program.

A good night was had by all who attended and our new President, Michael Strong, was pleased to give a short summary of his background and his role in NHW. He particularly enjoyed meeting and seeing the work of so many NHW volunteers.

Some regional Neighbourhood Watch activities - Mildura

KOORI CUBS PROGRAM

The Koori Cubs Program continues to go from strength to strength. The kids are now taking on leadership roles both in and out of the home and have become the talk of the town. An example of this was on Anzac Day when two of the Koori youngsters were selected to represent the Cubs in a wreath laying ceremony. They conducted themselves in a professional manner and showed great respect braving the cold wind and pouring rain.

JUNIOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

After the success of the Koori Cubs program it is clear that by educating the kids you can change both attitudes and lifestyle within the family home. By creating a gateway into the home through the engagement of children it is hoped to change attitudes in relation to home security and personal safety among all occupants of the family home. The Junior NHW program is now in full swing and has the kids buzzing.

Word of this program has now circulated the town and there has



Koori Cubs at the Anzac Day Ceremony.

been great media coverage on WIN TV and in the *Sunraysia Daily* newspaper. The other major positive is that another school principal who heard of the program wants it at his school in 2016.

Some Melbourne Neighbourhood Watch activities - Plumpton

The residents of Villawood Properties' Aspire community in Plumpton, in Melbourne's west, are forming their own local NHW group.

The formation of this new group is a perfect example of how the NHW initiative promotes not only community safety, but a broader sense of community. A community barbecue at Aspire's Mawson Gardens in May was the catalyst as about 60 residents attended to hear presentations by officers from the Caroline Springs Police Station and NHW representatives on how a local

Neighbourhood Watch program could operate.

In addition, a number had their car registration plates fitted with secure number plate screws as part of the Safe Plate initiative. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from those who attended, including a number who have already volunteered to be part of the committee to formally establish a local NHW group.

In addition to Plumpton, new NHW groups are being established at Melton (outer fringe western suburb), Derrimut (outer western suburb) and the Bellarine Peninsula (Geelong area).

Discussions have also taken place with Victoria Police regarding the establishment of a NHW in Sunbury (just outside the north-western edge of Melbourne) and the re-establishment of NHW in Footscray (inner western suburb).

Bright idea for trouble spot

Andrew Brosnan, *Kalgoorlie Miner*
4th June 2015

**Neighbourhood Watch
Kalgoorlie-Boulder is
inviting residents of a
South Kalgoorlie street
to take advantage of a
new initiative targeting
antisocial behaviour.**

The local branch is offering to install lights at houses on Blackall Place as part of a pilot program in the next three months.

Chairman Tony Banner says the area has been subject to antisocial behaviour for years as a result of a large drainage ditch adjacent to the rear of houses on the street.

"This space behind the homes on Blackall Place has been well known for many years as a run-through and a hiding place for youth in the area," he said.

"For a long time this area has been a cause of concern for local residents at the amount of noise ... and other antisocial activity that occurs throughout the night."

Representatives from NHW will install solar sensor lights at no cost for any residents of Blackall Place interested in the program.

Kalgoorlie Police Crime Prevention and Diversity Officer Senior Constable



Neighbourhood Watch members Tony Banner, Ben Watts and Charles Smith with Senior Constable Paul Donnellan at Blackall Place. Picture: Mary Meagher.

Paul Donnellan commended NHW on the program and encouraged the community to take advantage of the opportunity.

"I have been working with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Neighbourhood Watch Group since they re-formed back in March last year and it is fantastic to see that they are thinking outside of the box and are coming up with innovative ideas towards crime prevention and community safety," he said.

"I encourage the residents of Blackall Place to participate in the solar-powered sensor lighting project.

"Should the pilot prove to be viable it could potentially be expanded to multiple sites across Kalgoorlie-Boulder, promoting a safer and healthier community."

In addition to the solar light project, Mr Banner said NHW would be requesting that the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder repair or replace damaged street lighting at Blackall Place.



Lighting up known trouble spot

In March 2014 a new local Neighbourhood Watch Group was formed in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The Chairman of this group Tony Banner applied for funding for a solar powered lighting project through the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia grant funding round, however was not successful as they did not fully meet all funding criteria.

The funding panel liked the solar lighting funding proposal and panel member Bernie Durkin, Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch WA, followed this up with the local Kalgoorlie-Boulder Group and decided that WA would fund this initiative.

This initiative will involve the local NHW group offering to install solar powered lights free of charge in known antisocial or crime locations that are poorly lit.

The NHW CEO Ingrid Stonhill and Vice President Bernie Durkin were recently visiting Kalgoorlie so they took the opportunity to meet with the local NHW group to encourage them to continue on with their important community work.



The benefits of social media

Social media can provide a valuable tool for Neighbourhood Watch programs to connect with their members and reach the community more widely with their messages. While using technology and social media comes naturally for younger generations, it can be overwhelming and confusing for those who did not grow up in the digital age. However by increasing our knowledge and understanding of social media we can see how it may help to enrich and empower our own lives.

What is social media?

People talk about using 'social media' but what does it really mean? Social media simply describes the range of two-way, online communication channels which enable us to talk, interact, share and collaborate with one another. Social media makes it easy to share personal information, opinions, ideas, photos and videos with the wider world. It's different from other communication methods as the content created is driven by the users themselves and is available in real time.

Many of the things we used to do via traditional media like television, radio and print, we are now doing through social media, with the added benefit of being able to customise it to what we want and need as individuals. For example, you might choose to follow your favourite news outlet to keep you up-to-date with information in real-time, join a group on Facebook to share ideas and opinions about crime prevention, or even go on YouTube to learn a new skill from cooking to computing.

Social networking describes the process of using social media sites like Facebook and Instagram to build and maintain a social structure connecting you with friends, families and community members. Once you have established your social network by 'friending' or 'following' people on the sites you use, you can then communicate, share personal information, photos and other content with them online.

Some examples of social media sites include:

- Facebook – the most popular social networking site which enables





people to easily communicate with each other, share photos, videos and other content and compare your likes and dislikes

- Twitter – a social messaging tool where people share short messages or status updates known as 'tweets' that can be read by people following them
- Instagram – a photo sharing site
- YouTube – a popular free video-sharing website where people can watch and upload clips online
- LinkedIn – a social networking platform for professionals to

promote themselves to potential employers and help employers find suitable candidates

Who is using it?

Social media is no longer just for young people, it now has a significant role in the daily lives of most Australians. Around 70 per cent of all internet users in Australia have a social media profile¹ and for those who don't, it can be increasingly challenging to feel connected without one as it rapidly becomes one of the most popular ways to communicate. Computer

users aged 55 and over are the fastest growing group to sign up to social media sites like Facebook, with around one in five people over the age of 55 now connecting through the platform.²

Social media is becoming more popular with Government, not-for-profit groups, community groups and businesses creating their own sites or pages. Businesses are using social media to market their products, promote their

continued on page 28

continued from page 27

brand and connect with current customers while attracting new ones. Businesses are even able to target potential customers online with their products, simply by gathering data from blogs and social media about a person's age, sex, location and interests – no longer do we need to search for a product, it will find us!

Social media: the good and the bad

Social media offers many benefits and is proving to be the easiest and most common way people are now staying connected to their friends, families and wider social circles. It is a great way to share photos, ideas and opinions, find out about events, receive the latest news and current affairs, strengthen your digital literacy skills and best of all keep in touch with friends and families, particularly with those located elsewhere. Social media can make us feel more connected with the outside world and even help to improve our confidence and social skills.

However, there are also a number of challenges and risks involved with social media, most of which can be overcome by using it in a safe and ethical way. These challenges relate primarily to protecting our privacy, managing our relationships and being mindful of our reputation.

It is important to understand what details need to be protected online, and how we can control how these are shared. We can best manage our privacy by making sure our social media accounts are as private as possible by applying the appropriate privacy settings, and ensuring we only 'friend' those people we personally know. Be sure to read the privacy policy before you sign up for an account to check that

"Think about what personal information may be contained within the photos you share – could they reveal your home address or your child's school?"

you are comfortable with how the site plans to use the information you share.

When it comes to our relationships with people online, we shouldn't approach these any differently to how we would in the real world. It's important to be respectful in your interactions with others and treat them how you'd like to be treated – this especially applies to sharing photos of other people. Always think before you post something and if someone is making you upset or uncomfortable online you do not have to continue a relationship with them as they can easily be removed from your network. If you are supervising children or younger users online, it's important to be aware of the more serious issues which can happen to them online such as online grooming and cyberbullying, and how to report these issues to the appropriate authority, including the police.

All users of social media need to be aware that once they share something online, it is very difficult to remove it completely. Managing your reputation online can be as simple as thinking before you post something and considering how the things you say and do online can affect what others think of you. It's also important to be a good online role model for younger users.

For more information and resources on social media visit the ThinkUKnow website at www.thinkuknow.org.au

Top tips for safe social media use

- Only accept friend requests from people you know and trust
- Make sure your social media accounts are set to private or friends only Read the privacy policy of the sites you are using to gain an understanding of how they will share your information with third parties
- Think about what personal information may be contained within the photos you share – could they reveal your home address or your child's school?
- Create a strong password and change it regularly, and don't share it with others
- Check what your friends are posting about you online. It's a good idea to activate privacy settings on Facebook which mean you cannot be represented in a post or content publicly with your prior approval Learn how to remove a person from your social network, and how to report someone if they are making you feel uncomfortable online
- Think before you post!

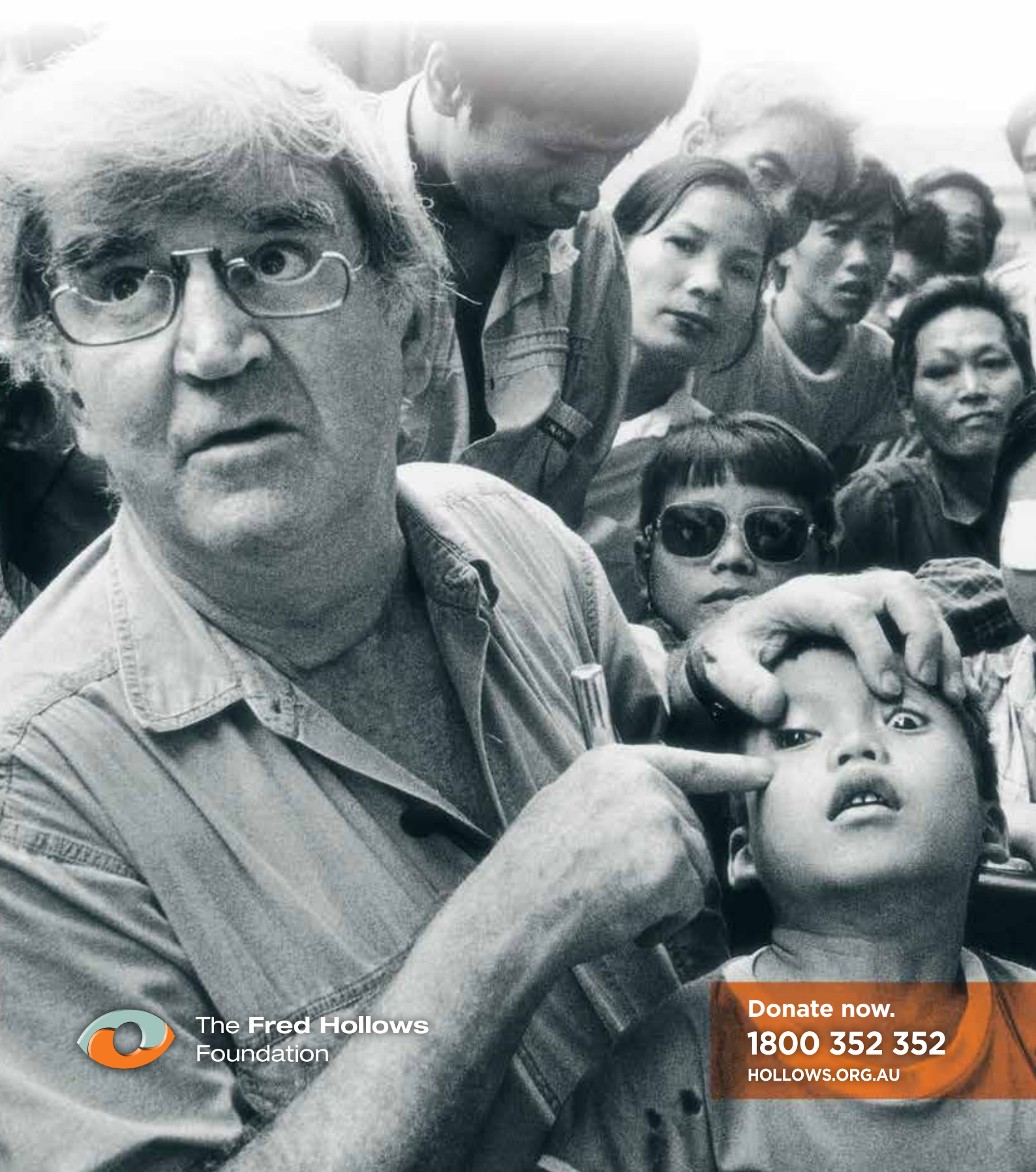
1 Sensis, 2015, *Social Media Report May 2015*. Viewed 3rd July 2015, https://www.sensis.com.au/content/dam/sas/PDFdirectory/Sensis_Social_Media_Report_2015.pdf

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